

Calhoun County Board of Health Meeting Minutes

4/21/14

Board of Health

Dr. Mahesh Karamchandani, Chairperson
Nancy Mullett, Vice Chairperson
Mary Jo Byrne
Amy Davis
Kathy-Sue Dunn, County Commissioner
Ronnie Sims
Rick Tsoumas

Health Department

Cheri Czerney
Dr. Harrington
Deb Metzgar
James Rutherford, Health Officer
Kristin Tekiele
Michelle Thorne

Other

Andy Baker-White, The Network for Public Health Law

Meeting called to order

Karamchandani called the meeting to order at 8:04 am.

Agenda

Tsoumas motioned for agenda approval. Mullett seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Consent Agenda

Sims motioned for approval of the consent agenda, Tsoumas seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Public Comment

No public comment

Presentation

This presentation on Communicable Diseases (CDs) in schools was prompted by an actual situation this past fall in one Calhoun County school where a non-vaccinated student with suspected chicken pox was allowed back into the school while they were potentially still a threat to infect others.

The presentation included:

- The draft Calhoun County Public Health Department (CCPHD) policy for excluding children from daycares and schools.
- The role of the CCPHD in following up on CDs.
- Vaccination rules/criteria for students attending school.
- Calhoun County's low number of vaccination waivers and high rates of completed vaccinations.

The question was asked as to how long a child is excluded from school when they have a CD. It depends on the disease. Chicken pox is 25 days after exposure for an unvaccinated child. If a child is vaccinated for chicken pox within four or five days after exposure, they can return to school immediately. It is the responsibility of the CCPHD to protect the whole of the community, which may include pregnant school staff and children who cannot be vaccinated due to a weakened immune system.

Baker-White discussed historical and legal background as it related to mandatory vaccinations, vaccination waivers, and exclusion of students from schools.

It was noted that school superintendents are under a great deal of pressure from the parents to let these children back into school. It was suggested that a health packet be provided to the superintendents that they can give to parents explaining CDs and this exclusion policy. People tend to feel that chicken pox is not a big deal. The point was made that parents need more education about CDs because some sign the waivers because it is an easy way to get their child back into school.

Even though the Board does not approve CCPHD policies, Rutherford wants the Board to be fully informed and educated about the exclusion policy. This will be in place for the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year and there will inevitably be questions, comments, complaints, etc. directed to Board members.

Metzgar will send the draft Exclusion Policy to Mullet as a Word document in order for her to make suggested changes.

Finance

Tekiele presented the FY14 second quarter report, which included:

- Revenue from weather-related permits expected to increase this summer.
- Medical Examiner invoicing is timely, particularly as it pertains to bills at Sparrow Hospital.
- Nurse-Family Partnership received an additional \$103,000 in gap funding from the Michigan Department of Community Health to help us get through the period while we were waiting for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation grant funds to come through.

Health Officer Report

Rutherford summarized the Health Officer Report, which included:

- Community health needs assessment done, so the next logical step is a Community Health Improvement Plan, which is needed for national accreditation.
- Update on the Albion Access to Care Initiative.
- 2014 Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) Health Rankings Report

A question was posed as to who CCPHD would be garnering input from for the Albion Access to Care Initiative. Michigan Public Health Institute will be helping CCPHD develop methods for getting that information from the public.

CCPHD epidemiologist will present to the Board on the RWJ report in May. This will help the Board understand the data used to determine the rankings in the RWJ report. Board members asked to see the raw data, rather than the rankings.

Recruitment Of New Board Member

Rick Hensley was interviewed as a Board member replacement for Tsoumas. Dunn, Byrne, and Sims conducted the interview and all agree that he is a good candidate. It was suggested Hensley attend Board meetings in May and June as a non-member and Tsoumas end his term after the June Board meeting.

Mullett moved that Rick Hensley replace Rick Tsoumas on the Board of Health, effective July 21, 2014. Byrne seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

BY-LAWS

The question was asked as to why we have by-laws. It helps to define the composition of the Board and how they go about conducting business. It also protects the Board from Board members who might try to use the Board for their own personal gain.

Discussion included:

- It was suggested that Board members should review and sign off on the by-laws every year. This can be done at the same time as the annual budget presentation.
- Explanation of Article II, Section 1, 2 where it says that the Board shall “set policy,” is referring to county policy rather than specific Health Department policies.
- Article III, Section 7 has an error. Remove the word “member” from the first sentence and add “of Health” in its place.
- Article V, Section 1 remove “(1/3 of the Board).” Before that change is made, it was suggested that the provisions of the open meetings act be reviewed to determine how many members must be present for a special meeting.
- Article V, Section 5 is a bit outdated.
- Article VII, Section 1 remove the words “officer, department, or employee” leaving only “Board member” in that part of the first sentence. This section is possibly in the by-laws as a disclaimer to make sure that no Board member or Health Officer enters into contracts without the Board’s knowledge or makes promises regarding the actions of the Board of Health or the Health Department.

Metzgar will make suggested changes and send the by-laws to Mullett as a Word document for her review for other possible changes. The revised by-laws will be reviewed again at the May 19, 2014 Board of Health meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:44a.m.

For a copy of the Health Officer report, please contact Deb Metzgar at 269-969-6463 or via email at dmetzgar@calhouncountymi.gov